



# Chicago Mountaineering Club

The next CMC General Meeting will be Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 PM at the Goose Island Brewery, 1800 N Clybourn Ave., Chicago IL (312) 915-0071.

General Meetings are open to the public and held on the second Monday of each month, September through May. Everyone is welcome. The CMC Board meets before the General Meeting from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The Board meeting is open to CMC members.

CMC Board Meeting Minutes are available to members on the club website. Everyone is encouraged to stay informed and get involved.

## General Meeting Schedule

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm: A presentation on the 1971 CMC Western Outing to the Tonquin Valley, British Columbia, by Pat and Chuck Armstrong.



The Ramparts and Amethyst Lake. 1971. P. Armstrong.

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm: TBD.

[Break for the summer climbing season.]

Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00pm: TBD.

If you have interest in giving a presentation this year, please contact the Program Chair Neil Horn.

## Tonquin Valley, 1971 CMC Western Outing



Tonquin Valley, Casement behind Ramparts. P. Armstrong

"Taken from the summit of Paragon looking at Casement to the left across the Bennington Glacier. Geike and Turret (the last two Ramparts) are visible to the right. You can see the terrain is deeply glaciated with deep U-shaped valleys, near vertical walls and lots of loose gravelly moraines."

"In 1971 CMC went to Tonquin Valley on one of the last big catered outings. 36 people attended. Chuck Armstrong was outing chairman. Pat Armstrong, Al Brooks, Tracy and Ward Wickwire were the food planners, and pre camp set up people. We had three generations of Coates in attendance and three teen age girls (Jackie and Becky Armstrong and Cathy Coates). We had a professional cook and her helper.

We set up camp below Surprise Point at the east end of Amethyst Lake. The Ramparts along the side of Amethyst Lake were some of the most beautiful mountains to see. They ranged from Surprise Point 7800+ feet to Dungeon at 10,790 feet. The rock was terrible, the snow and ice was wonderful, the mosquitoes were many and hungry, the climbs were long. Two parties were forced to overnight on climbs."

Pat Armstrong

## Rope Leader days for 2006

Thanks to Jamie Norris, Outings Chair, for the following:

Here are the recorded rope leader days for the past 3 years. I apologize for not having any records for 2003 and before. I have been pretty careful about recording these rope leader days, but if you feel that I am missing any of your days, please bring it to my attention. For those of you who do not know, the club gives a check for a rope, in appreciation for their service, to any rope leader that has accumulated 45 rope leader days. While this is not the only, or even the main reason to become a rope leader, it is greatly appreciated. Our club is always in need of rope leaders and if anyone is interested in becoming one, see our Safety Chairman, Jack Fletcher, or any rope leader, to help you get started. Becoming a rope leader helps build your confidence, raises your leadership skills, increases your teaching abilities, and helps out the club in general. You often become the first and most visible club representative seen by new climbers and potential members, and by doing this, you help shape the future membership of the club.

Thanks to those listed below, for their rope leader service.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Days Served in 04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Jamie Norris	14	13	14	41
Jeff Dull	10	18	8	36
John Pierce	4	13	10	27
Rob White	3	8	9	20
Dan Czolek	8	5	7	20
Ron Rolnicki	8	6	3	17
Ronn Fieldhouse	2	-	7	9
Jack Fletcher	8	-	-	8
Mary Blandino	1	-	6	7
Suzanne Fletcher	6	-	-	6
Bill Deitrich	2	1	-	3
Dave Harrison	3	-	-	3
Stephanie Hoffman	2	-	-	2
<u>Phil Patz</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals		73	64	63

## 2007 Outdoor Outings Schedule

All outings are open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike. We're looking forward to another great season this year.

April 21-22:	Palisades State Park Savanna, Illinois
May 5-6:	Devil's Lake State Park Baraboo, WI
May 19-20:	Devil's Lake
June 2-3:	Devil's Lake
June 23-24:	Devil's Lake – Lamb Roast (tentative)
Aug 4-5:	Devil's Lake
Aug 25-26:	Devil's Lake Old Timers / New Climbers Outing

Sept 8-9:	Devil's Lake
Sept 22-23:	Devil's Lake
Oct 6-7:	Devil's Lake
Oct 20-21:	Devil's Lake
Nov 3-4:	Shawnee National Forest Jackson Falls/Draper's Bluff (Experience climbers)

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact our Outings Chair Jamie Norris at [cmcoutings@cmcwebsite](mailto:cmcoutings@cmcwebsite)

## Last Indoor CMC Outing

Last chance for an indoor CMC outing this winter season:

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Vertical Endeavors, Warrenville.

A group will meet at 10am but people typically show up at all times. (It's like trying to corral cats.) Admission at Vertical Endeavors is \$10 for CMCers, \$15 for non-members. Remember to bring your membership card.

## Talk of the CMC

A number of CMCers did make it to Starved Rock for waterfall ice climbing this winter. Ron Rolnicki, Deborah Kujbida, Phil Patz, Rob White, and Dave Kenealy were among members who took advantage of the rare conditions.

This was my (Rob) first real foray on vertical waterfall ice, which happened to be on one of the coldest days of the winter. It was fun, but let's face it, it's not rock climbing (despite Neil Horn's objections.)

Anyone out there getting early season climbing in? New Members Aaron Smith and Devin Strickland made it out to Joshua Tree with a small group in March for a sunny week. Aaron added to his hard man credentials, chalking up a 30+ foot lead fall from a broken hold while climbing far off route looking for Right On, on Saddle Rocks. Devin, the belayer, said he could almost touch Aaron's foot when he stopped tumbling.

The Colorado contingent of ex-Chicagoan CMCers (thugs that they are) are already enjoying beautiful weather around Boulder for climbing. Aren't you tired of hearing about another dry balmy day in Eldorado Canyon in March or April?

We'll have a recap next month of the CMC Annual Dinner, but all in all it went off well. Everyone enjoyed the permanent slide of Bill D. sitting on the unfinished privies. Unfortunately both Neil Horn (the planner) and Mike Burian (the President) were ill and unable to attend, but Donna Martino stepped in to MC the night. Thanks to Ben Kweton and Jamie Norris for conducting the raffle and to Kelli Harsch, Aaron Smith, Ron Rolnicki, and Steve Brodie for helping out.

## A Classic Climb

Dream Weaver, Mount Meeker, Grade III, AI3-/2+  
Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

Mount Meeker is the double-topped mountain just southeast of Longs Peak connected by the Loft. At 13,911ft it is the second highest summit in RMNP. Dream Weaver is a classic moderate gully route which follows a narrow snow and ice ribbon as it weaves up the north side of Meeker and forms a near direct line to the summit.

On June 17, 2005, Ryan Eddingfield and I (Rob White) climbed the route while on a road trip to Colorado. It was a warm early summer in the Colorado Rockies and the alpine ice was quickly melting out, so we knew we'd need to get on the route as early as possible.

We were camped at the Long's Peak Campground at 9,400ft. We set our alarm for 1am, ate a little food, and drank a cold and milky Starbucks Espresso Double Shot before heading up the trail at 1:30am. We made fairly good time on the approach but lost the trail in the dark on a snow-covered switchback on the flanks of Mt. Lady Washington. We lost at least thirty minutes trying to get back on trail, but this ended up being fortunate. Dream Weaver hadn't had an ascent for over a week and wasn't to see another ascent for the following week, but that same morning a very strong solo climber (carrying skis!) left the trailhead twenty minutes after us to also climb the route. We ran into him while backtracking, and he then bushwacked over the ridge to get back to the main trail and ended up just in front of us.

After a leisurely stop at the outdoor privy on the Mt. Lady Washington Ridge, Ryan and I descended into the Longs Peak cirque, crossing several steep snow fields. We took a break, filled our water bottles, abandoned our approach shoes, and made our way to the base of the route at about 5:30am. Dawn was breaking.

We found out later the man who passed us was a RMNP backcountry climbing ranger (who skied down the Loft on the descent.) It turned out our getting lost was a benefit, as this climber was very adept at kicking steps and left us a nice stepladder up the initial snow field. The route finding for Dream Weaver is as straightforward as it gets in the mountains. Ascend the steep snow at the base of the route for 600 feet towards a narrowing chute. The path was obvious.

About three quarters of the way up the lower fan of step snow, approaching the chute, we were bombarded with small ice pieces whizzing by our heads. I was hit in the chest by a piece small enough not to hurt, but large enough and moving fast enough to give pause. We speculated about the source. Could it be from the sun hitting the upper route? If so, we definitely did not want to enter the gully, as it was still 6am and would get much worse. We decided (correctly) it must be coming from the climber in front of us, and it soon stopped.

Entering the narrow chute was thrilling with huge rock walls on either side. We were simul-soloing when we soon came to the first difficult band and possibly the route's crux. The chute narrowed to no more than three feet across with probably 20 feet of an alpine ice runnel with rock walls on both sides forming a chimney. After assessing the situation, Ryan slowly and coolly soloed up through the band. Some of the ice was rotten and melting, and it took some clearing to get to solid ice for a good pick placement (this is what was flying down from the other climber earlier.) It ended up being a very steep mixed section with one pick in ice, the other in rock, one cramp-on in ice, one in rock, etc. After Ryan topped out on the band, we decided I should probably have a belay as this was to be my first time ever swinging a pick into ice, and this was my second day wearing cramp-ons! Trial by fire they say. Ryan fixed a quick anchor around a boulder, dropped me the rope, and braced for a hip belay. I tied a bowline around my waist, and then started climbing. Feeling the security of crampons and ice picks in good quality ice for the first time was a revelation....

After this, the route widened somewhat, and we crossed a short section of rock. After a brief break, I felt confident after the earlier difficult section and took the lead as we started again on easier snow. We continued on unprotected. A fall on the steep snow would have been dangerous for much of the climb. It was steep enough that a self arrest was unlikely after the first second or two. However the snow was stable and as long as we kept control and climbed smart (using the axe for self-belay, taking stable steps, etc.), the risks seemed manageable and we both were comfortable.

The snow soon steepened further and we continued on with another thousand feet of wonderful climbing. Twice more the chute narrowed to no more than 2-3 feet across with maybe 20 feet of steep alpine ice in rock chimneys. In retrospect I was probably in over my head lacking experience on snow and ice, but it felt solid. We both soloed through these bands, swinging our axes, occasionally using the rock for hand holds or for dry tool or crampon placements.

We summited at approximately 8:30am to a glorious crystal clear morning.

For the descent we scrambled down past the headwall on the Loft, then found great snow for a long glissade where we lost 800 feet of elevation within a minute or two. What a nice way to get off a mountain. The hike back to the trailhead was uneventful but long.

We reached the trailhead just after noon at approximately 12:30pm, eleven hours after our start, exhausted and elated. A fine day in the mountains.

Have you climbed Deam Weaver? Have any favorite climbs? Let other CMCers in on it through the newsletter...

**From:**  
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**TO:**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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NEWSLETTER: Please submit your comments, announcements, outings or personal climbing reports, items of interest, ephemera, or questions to the Editor: Robert White at 1845 N. Orleans Street, Apt. 2R, Chicago, IL 60614 or e-mail: [cmcsecretary@cmcwebsite.org](mailto:cmcsecretary@cmcwebsite.org). Also, please contact me if your newsletter was damaged in the mail and you would like a fresh copy sent.

#### 2007 CMC Board

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#### Quote of the Month

"Looking back on four decades of observation of my comrades of the rope, I would say that few serious climbers handle this transition well [to domestic married life.] Many a hard man who marries ends up wretchedly neglecting wife (and children) in order to stay on the cutting edge. Conversely, many an ambitious climber who, through marriage and/or parenthood, discovers the essential fragility of life and ends up backing off from the sterner demands of the great ranges. It would be one thing if such a convert could accept the change with equanimity – could say, in effect, 'Okay, I did all that crazy stuff when I was young and out for myself, but now I have responsibilities.' Instead, all too often the former hard man rationalizes his defection from what Lionel Terray (hard to the end) called grand alpinisme, as he pretends that hunting meteorites in Morocco or hiking among the hill tribes of Bhutan offers all the thrills that he used to find on direttissimas in the Karakoram."

-David Roberts, from his book *On the Ridge Between Life and Death*.

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"Being a dirtbag [climber] is a matter of philosophy, not personal wealth. I'm an existential dirtbag."

-Yvon Chouinard ... after he made his millions.